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E.O. 12865: N/A

TAGS: PDIP CGEN OTRA CK US

SUBJECT: RU) CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL

REF: A) BEIJING 8076, B) BEIJING 8041, C) BEIJING 7601,
D) STATE 222771

1. (U) EMBASSY PLEASE PASS TO CONIGEN GUANGZHOU.

2. DOWI ON NOVEMBER 29, DEPARTMENT DELIVERED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO PRC EMBASSY REGARDING RESTRICTIONS ON DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR TRAVEL. AS THE NOTE REPEATED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS) STATED, OUR DECISION TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON PRC DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR TRAVEL IN THE US WAS MOTIVATED EXCLUSIVELY BY OUR DESIRE TO OBSERVE THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY, A PRINCIPLE WHOSE IMPORTANCE HAS INCREASED WITH NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. POSTS WILL NOTE THAT WE HAVE FOR THE TIME BEING NOT ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF CLOSED AREAS," SINCE THE PRC'S DEFINITION SEEMS TO BE AMBIGUOUS. HOWEVER, WE PLAN TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THE CHINESE, POSSIBLY IN THE CONTEXT OF NEGOTIATIONS OF THE BILATERAL CONVENTION.

3. REMAINDER OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE:

4. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR TRAVEL BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING AND THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL IN CANGZHOU, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE REQUIRED OF ALL CHINESE PERSONNEL-- INCLUDING STAFF AND DEPENDENTS--ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN WASHINGTON, D. C., AND THE CONSULATES GENERAL IN HOUSTON AND SAN FRANCISCO FOR TRAVEL WITHIN UNITED STATES TERRITORY, WHETHER SUCH TRAVEL BE FOR OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE PURPOSES, AS OF JANUARY 31, 1958:

A. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUST BE INFORMED BY WRITTEN NOTE FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS, EIGHT HOURS OF WHICH MUST CORRESPOND TO ONE WORKING DAY, IN ADVANCE OF, AND MUST SPECIFICALLY APPROVE, ANY TRAVEL BEYOND A TWENTY-FIVE (25) MILE (40 KILOMETER) RADIUS OF THE

2. JASSY, ACCORD THAT DIRECT TRAVEL WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND THE EIGHTH-AIRBORNE INTER-CONTINENTAL AIRPORT WILL REQUIRE NO PRIOR NOTIFICATION. IN THE CASE OF PERSONNEL ACCREDITED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE MADE TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON FUNCTIONS.

B. UNITED STATES PASSPORT AGENCIES LOCATED IN THE CITIES OF HOUSTON AND SAN FRANCISCO MUST BE INFORMED BY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS, EIGHT HOURS OF WHICH MUST CORRESPOND TO THE WORKING DAY, IN ADVANCE OF, AND MUST SPECIFICALLY APPROVE, ANY TRAVEL BEYOND A TWENTY-FIVE (25) MILE (40 KILOMETER) RADIUS OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HOUSTON AND SAN FRANCISCO, RESPECTIVELY.

C. IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY TRAVEL, NOTIFICATION IN THE CASE OF THE EMBASSY MAY BE MADE BY TELEPHONE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR, IN THE CASES OF THE CONSULATES GENERAL, BY TELEPHONE TO THE UNITED STATES PASSPORT AGENCIES IN THE CITIES OF HOUSTON AND SAN FRANCISCO, RESPECTIVELY. IN THE CASE OF PERSONNEL ACCREDITED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE MADE TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE RESPONSIBLE

FOR LIAISON FUNCTIONS. ALL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE REQUESTS MUST BE FOLLOWED WITH A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE APPROVING OFFICE ON THE NEXT WORKING DAY.

3. THESE PROCEDURES ARE BEING INSTITUTED NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INHIBITING OR RESTRICTING THE TRAVEL OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL PERSONNEL, BUT TO BRING UNITED STATES TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS INTO LINE WITH THOSE BEING APPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO TRAVEL BY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BELIEVES THAT WITH THE ADVENT OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE PREVIOUS AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS WHICH APPLIED TO TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE REPLACED BY REGULAR PROCEDURES WHICH APPLY UNIFORMLY TO ALL MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN PRINCIPLE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FAVORS A POLICY OF UNRESTRICTED TRAVEL AND CONTACT BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND VISITORS AND WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ALL TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL PERSONNEL IN BOTH COUNTRIES, WITH A VIEW TOWARD EASING THESE REQUIREMENTS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 29, 1979

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